

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00564 152056Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
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-----107148 152106Z /73

R 120730Z MAY 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7492  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
CINCPAC  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0564

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PINS PORS SOPN PEPR MP LY UK  
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MAY 12, 1978 - SUMMARY

REF: PORT LOUIS 0539 (DTG 050913Z MAY 78)  
PORT LOUIS --39 MAY 12, 1978

1 THE PRESS GAVE ITS BIGGEST PLAY THIS WEEK TO THE JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE FIRE WHICH DESTROYED ONE OF THE BUILDINGS OF LE MAURICIEN NEWSPAPER. THE COURT HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF YVES BEDOS, A SECURICOR GUARD WHO SUPPORTED THE CLAIM OF SHEIK HOSSEN, AN ALLEGED AGENT OF THE STATE SECURITY SERVICE (SSS), THAT HE HAD DRUGGED BEDOS ON THE DAY OF THE FIRE SO THAT SSS PEOPLE COULD SET IT. BUT BEDOS TURNED OUT TO BE BOTH AN UNRELIABLE GUARD AND A LESS THAN CREDIBLE WITNESS WHEN CROSS-EXAMINING LAWYERS PUNCHED HOLES IN  
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HIS TESTIMONY AND BROUGHT OUT THE IMPLICATION THAT HE HAD BEEN COACHED (IF NOT WORSE) BY LEADERS OF THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) TO SUPPORT HOSSEN'S STORY.

2. IN THE ASSEMBLY FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER AND THE MMM SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER, DE L'ESTRAC, TRADED ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY, WITH WALTER APPEARING TO SCORE

MORE POINTS. WALTER ALSO REVEALED THAT SHEIK HOSSEN HAD APPROACHED HIM LAST FALL WITH AN OFFER TO LEAD A CRUSADE AGAINST THE MMM, WHICH HE SAID WAS POISONING THE MINDS OF MAURITIAN YOUTH, THUS REVEALING THAT HOSSEN IS AN IDEOLOGICAL BUTTERFLY. THE ASSEMBLY SESSION WAS CUT SHORT SO THAT ALL THE LEADING POLITICIANS COULD ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF SIR ABDUL RAZACK MOHAMED, FATHER OF THE LABOR MINISTER AND LONG-TIME LEADER OF THE MUSLIM PARTY HE FOUNDED, THE MUSLIM COMMITTEE OF ACTION. REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL FACTIONS WERE ELOQUENT IN THEIR TESTIMONIALS TO MOHAMED, WHO COMMANDED WIDESPREAD RESPECT THOUGH MANY DISAGREED WITH HIS STRICTLY COMMUNAL APPROACH TO POLITICS.

3. UTEEM, A MUSLIM MMM DEPUTY FROM PORT LOUIS, WAS DETAINED BY THE POLICE AFTER THEIR SURVEILLANCE OF HIM REVEALED THAT HE HAD PICKED UP ABOUT \$1700 WORTH OF RUPEES FROM THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE AT THE LIBYAN EMBASSY. HE WAS RELEASED AND PROTESTED THAT HE HAD CARRIED THE MONEY INTO THE EMBASSY, BUT THIS INCIDENT WILL PROBABLY LEND CREDIBILITY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CHARGE THAT THE MMM IS FOREIGN-FINANCED AND ENCOURAGES FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS. THERE MAY BE TROUBLE FOR LIBYAN-MAURITIAN RELATIONS TOO, IF THE GOM DECIDES TO PNG THE LIBYAN DIPLOMAT INVOLVED.

4. THREE MAJOR DEFAMATION SUITS AGAINST THE MMM NEWSPAPER, LE MILITANT, WERE FILED OR HEARD THIS WEEK, MAKING TOTAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAIMS AGAINST THE PAPER OF NEARLY TWO MILLION RUPEES. NONE OF THE CLAIMANTS IS LIKELY TO COLLECT, HOWEVER, AS THE PAPER FAILED TO APPEAR AFTER MAY 9 AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FOLDED. THE MMM IS LIKELY TO START UP A SUCCESSOR PAPER SHORTLY.

5. A LEADING HINDU MMM DEPUTY AND POLITBURO MEMBER, DR. COONJAN, RESIGNED HIS PARTY LEADERSHIP POSTS BUT REMAINED IN THE PARTY, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. HE MAY BE A POTENTIAL DEFECTOR TO THE LABOR PARTY.

6. A MAURITIAN TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THE SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE, THE GOVERNMENT'S PRINCIPAL SECURITY FORCE, REPLACING A BRITISH OFFICER WHO HAS RETURNED TO THE UK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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